

PRESBYTERY REFLECTION

By Sheppards and Lapsley Moderator, Susan Haskell

MAY 2022

HOST: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WETUMPKA

Highlights of the May Presbytery meeting



Rev. John Allen
Bankson



Shirley Finley
Westminster, B'ham



Rev. Elizabeth O'Neill



Bev Krannich, IPC

Ministry within our Presbytery



The Spring stated meeting was held at First Presbyterian Wetumpka, the first meeting of the presbytery to be held there since the sanctuary was destroyed in the tornado of 2019. It was the first meeting in 2 years to have commissioners in person and on Zoom.

Rev. Jonathan Yarboro gave the story of the rebuilding noting that the church had replacement insurance and insisted on having the 1856 church restored even down to the light fixtures.

Rev. Yarboro preached on Leviticus, a daily lectionary reading, admittedly a curious choice but he found just the message of love.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- Commissioning delegates to General Assembly - Ministers Junmo Jeong, Joe Scrivner and Elders Jim Toomey and Olympia McCrackin.
- The Anti Racism committee announced a group discussion for the summer on **the book "Gathering at the Table" and reviewed the Racial Justice Pilgrimage** held in March. The commissioners were divided into groups to discuss perspectives on race.
- The Executive Council proposed a change to the Standing Rules relating to the status of volunteers. It passed with an amendment.
- Reporting on Living River Jenny Thagard introduced Rev. Rachel Vankirk Mathews the new Asst Director for Development and encouraged everyone to send children and youth to camp this summer.
- In her report Rev. Sue Westfall noted that several churches are engaged with **the Presbyterian Foundation's "Project Regeneration" which she highly recommends.** She also encouraged churches to invite her to worship services so that she can take greetings from the presbytery.



Executive Council
Moderator,
Rev. Debbie Feagin



Living River Executive
Director, Jenny Thagard



Presbytery Moderator,
Susan Haskell



Presbytery General
Presbyter, Sue Westfall

Ministry Within our Presbytery

- Another highlight from COM - the plan of merger for Shades Valley and Southminster churches which was approved unanimously. Terms of Call for all ministers listed were approved and a Steering Committee to act as the session of Korean Birmingham was approved. deNay Kirkpatrick was commissioned as a CRE and memorials for the Rev. Thomas Winter, Rev. Rebecca Mann, Rev. Ben Thompson and Rev. Thomas Rains were given.
- Presbyterian Home for Children President Doug Marshall has been elected to the United Methodist Association Board of Directors. The Home was reaccredited with EAGLE, the only faith-based accrediting body in the US for ministry with children.
- Mission Coordinator Ralls Coston noted the hunger programs coming up - The Pentecost Campaign and the Cents-Ability Offering. Also the presbytery will be building another Habitat house and is involved in helping Afghanistan refugees settle in Alabama.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Haskell, Moderator

Additional Highlights from the Presbytery meeting

